

2.18 Private Water Pipes Under Roadways

POLICY TITLE: PRIVATE WATER PIPES UNDER ROADWAYS

FILE REF: SC237

EXPIRY DATE: JULY 2026

OBJECTIVES

To avoid damage to Council road assets and associated problems and define responsibilities of Council and property owners in respect to the construction and maintenance of private water pipelines on or across roads.

POLICY STATEMENT

1. STANDARD CONDITIONS FOR NEW INSTALLATIONS

- (a) No water pipe should be laid through any drainage culvert or similar structure.
- (b) The section of pipe passing under the road formation shall be encased in a rigid conduit/pipe of not less than twice the diameter of the service pipeline diameter.
- (c) The pipes shall be laid at a depth of at least 450 mm (18") below the surface, except where it is outside the limits of the road formation, where a depth of 300 mm (12") is acceptable.
- (d) Any pipe crossing under a bitumen-sealed road should, if possible, be placed by boring or other means so as not to disturb the surface. However, in the event of approval being given for the surface to be opened, the restoration thereof must be undertaken by Council at the expense of the applicant. If a pipe is to cross under unsealed road, the road opening and restoration may be undertaken by the applicant but to the Council's satisfaction. However, Council reserves the right to carry out any or all the work at the applicant's expense.
- (e) Two signs bearing the letters WP are supplied with any permit and shall be erected by the permit holder where directed.
- (f) Council accepts no responsibility for any damage to persons and/or property by the pipe, its contents, or any activities relating to the construction or maintenance of the pipeline, nor does Council accept responsibility for damage to the pipe or its contents whether caused by Council's staff or other persons.
- (g) In the event of any damage to a road surface or other property of the Council being occasioned by the breakage of the pipeline or any associated cause, Council will require the owner of the pipeline to meet the full cost of restoration of the road pavement surface, or other property of the Council so damaged, with such work to be carried out by Council at its standard rates for private hire work.
- (h) A permit to the above effect must be obtained by any person wishing to carry out such work. Same, together with any necessary special conditions, may be issued by the Director of Engineering or delegate following receipt of a completed application form and payment of a fee as prescribed by Council's Management Plan.

2. EXISTING INSTALLATIONS

- (a) In the absence of any proof by the person responsible for the pipeline that Council has granted permission for its construction under a public road on conditions more favourable than the current ones, Council's current conditions, as revised from time to time, will be applied to all existing pipelines so far as is practicable.
- (b) The above clause is not to be interpreted to require the replacement of any existing pipeline constructed in contravention of clauses a) to g) of the standard conditions whilst the existing pipeline continues to function in a manner satisfactory to its owner, the water supply authority and this Council.
- (c) The replacement of any existing pipeline is required to be carried out in conformity with all the above standard conditions but that no fee is charged for such replacement.
- (d) In the event of any future damage being occasioned to Council's road or other property by burst or leaking water services, and the persons responsible for same either being unable to be contacted immediately or failing to take immediate steps to minimise such damage, the Director of Engineering or delegate is authorised (where appropriate in conjunction with the water supply authority) to either shut off the flow of water, arrange for temporary or permanent repairs to be made, or take any other appropriate action to ensure the safety of Council's assets and the users thereof, and the costs of executing such work will be debited to the persons responsible for the pipeline.

*Adopted by Council – 17 July 2023
Refer minute 151/23*

*Adopted by Council – 17 August 2020
Refer minute 161/20*